

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are pending.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9-17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Hild et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,532,368) in view of Segarra et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,466,063).

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully request that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 7, 2000 be acknowledged by the Examiner initialing the references contained on the Form 1449.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 14 as these claims do comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The comment made in the Office Action at paragraph 2a(i) is the same as that made at paragraph 5a(i) of the previous Office Action. The Office Action does not address the remarks made in the response filed December 16, 2005. It is believed that these remarks adequately address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However if the Examiner disagrees the Examiner is respectfully requested to describe his concern on the record and address the comments made by Applicants in the previous Office Action. Moreover, the objected to passage of Claim 1 reads as follows: "a broadcast unit operable to transmit service requests ... said service requests ... constituting a request to said other station to perform a task for said station." This language is clear and unequivocally states that a service request is a request for another station to perform a task on behalf of the first station. As was noted in the previous response, the description in the present specification clearly explains that the task required can be anything related to the task that the first station is performing (see e.g. specification, page 4, lines 28-30). The description includes both requesting another station to transmit software, and requesting another station to perform

another processing task. Moreover, as both requests require activity by the other station to some extent, there is no apparent substantive difference between these requests in terms of a “task” for the other station to perform. Thus, Applicants have once again explained why Claim 1 complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and renew their request for the Examiner to explain his rationale if he disagrees. Moreover, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that mutually agreeable claim language may be identified.

Similarly, with regard to the rejection made at paragraph 2a(ii), this is a reiteration of a previous rejection made in the last Office Action. The remarks made in the previous response are hereby incorporated by reference. The required task can be anything and there is no substantial difference between requesting (for example) that another station find, access and transmit a program, and requesting (for example) that another station retrieve, process and transmit a calculation result. Clearly in light of the specification (see e.g. page 4, line 28 to page 5, line 10), the claim language is not vague or indefinite and otherwise complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Likewise, with regard to the rejection at paragraph 2a(iii), Applicants traverse the rejection because for example at page 4, line 28 to page 5, line 10 there is no limitation that defines what a task could be limited to, and likewise no limit on what the requirement of a service request may be. Once again if the Examiner disagrees, it is expected that the Examiner will provide an adequate explanation of why exporting a software module from a software resource repository in response to a demand from a station is not a “task” in the sense of the present application.

All of the rejections based on prior art rely on Hild et al. as a primary reference. However, Hild et al. is not prior art with regard to the present application. The present application claims priority to United Kingdom Patent Application 9921233.4, filed in the UK

on September 8, 1999. Hild et al. on the other hand has a U.S. filing date of January 19, 2000. A copy of the foreign priority document was indicated as being received by the USPTO in the Office Action of November 10, 2003 (paper # 6). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have adequately perfected priority and Hild et al. is not prior art with regard to any of the presently rejected claims.

Consequently, in view of the perfection of priority and clarification of the claims in view of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is respectfully requested that the invention defined by Claims 1-17 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the prior art.

The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

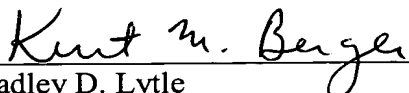
Respectfully submitted,

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